
REASONS

Humbly Offered

*For Repealing a Clause in the Act for
Settling the Trade to Affrica, by
which Foreign Copper Bars may
be Exported from England.*

AFTER The Second reading of the Bill to settle the Trade to *Affrica*, in the House of Commons, leave was given to Offer a Clause, for Exporting Foreign Coper-bars, which said Clause was received and added to the said Bill by the Committee to whom the said Bill was Committed, and the reason for so doing is inserted in the said Clause (*viz.*) *That by an Act of Parliament made in the Fifth and Sixth years of the Reign of his*
“ *Present Majesty, and the late Queen Mary, among*
“ *other things it is Enacted, that no other Copper than*
“ *what is made of English Oar only, should be Exported,*
“ *whereby the Trade of England is greatly prejudiced,*
“ *because Foreigners are enabled to Export Copper much*
“ *cheaper than it can be carried from England.*

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If this Reason had been in fact true, it must be acknowledged, the Clause had been highly necessary, but the House of Commons was not rightly informed of this Matter.

For the Act which restrains the Exportation of Copper, to that which is made of *English Oar* only, when it came up to the House of Lords, was an absolute Repeal of several Statutes therein mentioned, forbidding the Exportation of any Copper, Brass, and other Metals out of this Kingdom; but upon a full hearing for and against the Bill, their Lordships thought fit to restrain it to the Exporting of Copper made of *English Oar* only, which was done to encourage the makers of Copper here in *England*; for it *then* plainly appeared, there was so much Copper made here, that there was a necessity for giving liberty to Export it into Foreign Parts; and on the contrary, to continue the Prohibition of Exporting Foreign Copper, unless it should be first wrought here.

And it is well known to all Buyers of Copper in *England*, that Copper made of *English Oar* only, is as cheap and as good as what is brought from *Sweden*, and that all sorts of wrought Copper, and particularly the Bars now in question, are made in as great perfection, and as cheap, as what can be Imported from Foreign parts; so that there was no Occasion for this Clause, but only to promote the Interest of some few Persons, who were and still are Members of the *Affrican* Company, and whose Particular Trade it is to import Copper Bars from *Sweden*, and sell them to the said Company; for the *Affrican* Company in General, had no need of any such Clause, it being all one to them what bars they buy, whether *Swedish* or *English*, so the one be as good and as cheap as the other.

If these things be so, and that there is so much Copper made in *England*, as is not only sufficient for our Home Consumption, but also what is required for our Foreign

Foreign Trade, and that it be as good and as cheap as what comes from Foreign Parts; (all which is in fact true) It will necessarily follow, that this Clause must be a very great Prejudice and hindrance to the making and Manufacturing of Copper herein this Kingdom, and may at last so discourage the Makers and Manufacture, that we shall be in great danger of losing both; and then many thousands of Poor laborious People employed in the Mines, in the Copper works, and in the Copper-Mills, must lose their Livelihoods, and be forc'd to the Parish for Maintenance; and then we must send our ready Money again to *Sweden* to buy Copper (altho the Balance of our Trade thither be already greatly in the Disfavour of *England*) all which sufficiently proves the Necessity of Repealing the said Clause.

But it must be farther noted, That when those Gentlemen of the *African* Company who attended the passing the said Act, came to understand that there were some Persons that intended to Petition against the said Clause, the said Gentlemen fearing so just a Complaint (as would lye against the Clause) might endanger the passing the Bill, they to prevent the same, Voluntarily and of their own Accord, promised the said Persons (when they came up to the House to present their Petition,) that in case they would forbear presenting of it, The Clause should be withdrawn before the Bill should pass the House of Lords; accordingly the said Persons readily took the said Gentlemens Words, and agreed; not to deliver their Petition; But notwithstanding this their Promise, there was not the least care taken to withdraw the said Clause, and at last these Gentlemen suffered it to pass with the Bill, in breach of their own word and engagement.

This unfair dealing, and their Offering the Clause so late, (as after the Second Reading of the Bill) are good indications to believe, the Promoters of this Clause were Conscious to themselves, that they fought not the
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Publick good in conjunction with their private Interest, but the latter, in opposition, and to the Prejudice of the former, as is plain they did, since 'tis evident the Clause contradicts the true Interest of the Nation, and the Common Practice of all Countrys, which is to give the greatest encouragement to the Manufacturing of all useful Commodities at home, thereby to prevent the sending their Monies abroad to buy them.

T H E E N D.

